GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
REHABILITATION OF BEGGARS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any estimated population details of beggars in the country being used for preparation of integrated programme for rehabilitation of beggars during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the States and Union Territories which have enacted anti-beggary laws, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to assess the ground reality and for an effective implementation of the anti-beggary laws in States/Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken for implementation of the proposed scheme?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part [a] to [e] of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 51 for 26.11.2012 by Shri Tufani Saroj regarding "Rehabilitation of Beggars"

(a): There is no reliable and authentic data on beggars in the country. However, as per an un-published data of the Registrar General of India, there were about 7.03 lakh beggars and vagrants in the country in 2001.

(b) to (e): As per information available, as many as 20 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs) have either enacted their own Anti Beggary Legislation or adopted the legislation enacted by other States. A list of these States/UTs is enclosed as Annexure.

The Central Government has requested the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations to take appropriate measures to curb beggary and rehabilitate beggars. Further, two National Consultation Meetings have been held one each on 1st July, 2010 and 12th July, 2012, with the representatives of Central/State Govts., NGOs, Institutes and individual experts in the field of beggary to discuss the issues related to beggary. In these meetings, it was, inter-alia, recommended that(i) a Model Legislation for Elimination of Beggary should be brought out that can be suitably adopted/ adapted by States/ UTs and (ii) the feasibility of formulating a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of beggars may be explored.

The Planning Commission had constituted a Working Group on 'Social Welfare' for formulation of XII Five Year Plan (2012-17). With a view to rehabilitate at least half of the 7.03 lakhs beggars and vagrants (as per the un-published data of Registrar General of India), the Working Group, inter-alia, had recommended to the Planning Commission that a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Beggars should be introduced which would include setting up Shelter Homes/ Night Shelter − cum- Work Production Centres; Multiple Skill Training; Mobile Health Care; Counseling, Awareness Generation and Sensitization programme; Training of Human Resources; Research and Documentation, etc. The Working Group proposed a budgetary outlay of Rs. 925 crore for the XII five year plan period. The matter is under consideration of the Planning Commission.